

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a method and system for using a secure hardware adjunct in an otherwise open personal computer or other computing appliance. The secure hardware adjunct contains a microprocessor, or equivalent, and can perform cryptographic functions, notably encryption/decryption and secure storage of cryptographic keys. The secure hardware adjunct is used to integrate a non-executable form of a software application with selected "sensitive functions" so as to produce an executable instance of the program incorporating these functions. The sensitive functions could be of any nature, but a typical application would be functions to enforce Digital Rights Management (DRM) rules on the execution of the software. Optionally, environmental data may also be integrated with the non-executable form of the software application.